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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------069728 031421Z /42
O 031145Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 264
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LOHE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS NIART IMMEDCATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1239

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG, CT
SUBJ: AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE, CAE REQUEST FOR TRANSPORT
REF; STATE 137343, BANGUI 1211, STATE 141051

1. ACTING PRIME MINISTER MAIDOU USED OCCASION OF MY FAREWELL CALL JUNE 3 TO REQUEST AID FROM USG "NEXT WEEK" TO TRANSPORT APPROXIMATELY 500 CAE TROOPS TO ZAIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MULTINATIONAL EFFORT IN SHABA.

2. MAIDOU PREFACED HIS REQUEST BY REFERRING TO THE DISQUIETING SITUATION IN THE REGION AND TO EMPEROR BOKASSA'S DECLARATION THAT THE CAE WOULD HELP ZAIRE TO WHATEVER EXTENT POSSIBLE. MAIDOU SAID THE CAE WAS NOW READY TO GIVE CONCRETE ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. HE ASKED FOR US ASSISTANCE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE IN TRANSPORTING THE TROOPS -- PROBABLY 500 INITIALLY AND UP TO 1,080 ULTIMATELY.

3. I HAD NOT RECEIVED STATE 140672 PRIOR TO THE MEEZING AND
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WAS NOT AWARE TO WHAT EXTENT OUR PLANNING HAD PROGRESSED FOR SUPPLYING TRANSPORT TO COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE SHABA EFFORT. I THEREFORE SAID ONLY THAT AS THE PRIME MINISTER KNEW, WE TOO WERE CONCERNED BY THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND HAD PROVIDED IMPORTANT SUPPORT TO THE FRENCH/BELGIAN RELIEF EFFORT. I SAID WE WERE IN CONTACT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE DONENEXT, AND I DREW THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO THE

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MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY IN PARIS.
N

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE LEARNED FROM FRENCH AMBASSADOR PICQUET THAT THE CAE REQUEST RESULTS FROM A MESSAGE HE TRANSMITTED TO MAIDOU THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 2 ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS. MESSAGE STATED THAT USG WANTED EACH STATE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN MAINTAINING ORDER IN SHABA TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO TRANSPORT, THIS BEING A REQUIREMENT OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. MAIDOU RESPONDED TO PICQUET THAT SUCH A DECISION TO APPROACH THE USG COULD ONLY BE MADE BY THE EMPEROR, WHOM HE WAS ABLE TO CONTACT IN FRANCE BEFORE MY CALL JUNE 3. WE UNDER-STAND THAT FRENCH ARE MAKING SIMILAR EFFORT IN LOME, DAKAR, LIBREVILLE AND ABIDJAN.(I WOULD NOT PROPOSE TO MAKE ANY FURTHER DEMARCHS TO GOCAE UNTIL OUR RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST IS AVAIL-ABLE. AT THAT TIME IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SHARE WITH THEM OUR THINKING NOT ONLY ON ZAIRIAN SITUATION BUT ALSO ON BROADER, MUTUAL SECURITY PLAN.

5. WE DOUBT THAT CAE CAN IN FACT COME UP WITH 500 WELL-TRAINED AND WELL-EQUIPPED TROOPS FOR ASSIGNMENT IN SHABA WITHIN A WEEK. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER BOKASSA WILL CHOOSE TO SEND THE FULL NUMBER, SOME OF WHOM MIGHT BE POORLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED OR WHETHER HE WILL DECIDETO SEND A SMALLER NUMBER OF BETTER

TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TROOPS. FRENCM AMBASSADOR EXPECTS GOF
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WILL BE ASKED TO SUPPLY SOME EQUIPMENT FOR CAE CONTINGENTS
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